

22 FEB 2002

PVS

(12) **UK Patent Application** (19) **GB** (11) **2 373 622** (13) **A**

(43) Date of A Publication 25.09.2002

(21) Application No 0107401.2

(22) Date of Filing 23.03.2001

(71) Applicant(s)

Alan Driver
Grace Barn, Pencarrow, CAMELFORD, Cornwall,
PL32 9RZ, United Kingdom

(72) Inventor(s)

William Isaacs
Alan Driver

(74) Agent and/or Address for Service

Alan Driver
Grace Barn, Pencarrow, CAMELFORD, Cornwall,
PL32 9RZ, United Kingdom

(51) INT CL⁷**G09F 19/08 21/04**

(52) UK CL (Edition T)

G5C CDA

(56) Documents Cited

GB 2280774 A**GB 2218560 A****US 5935663 A****US 4820231 A**

(58) Field of Search

UK CL (Edition S) G5C CDA**INT CL⁷ G09F 19/00 19/08 21/04****Online: EPODOC, PAJ, WPI.**

(54) Abstract Title

Vehicle passenger dummy.

(57) A dummy for simulating a passenger in a vehicle comprises at least two sheets of material 1,2, the outline of which is in the form of the head and upper torso of a person. The sheets of material include means, preferably slots 5, 6, for assembling them together to form a quasi three-dimensional representation (Fig. 2). The dummy is attached to a head rest in such a way that it can move in response to forces generated by movement of the vehicle, e.g. by means of a hook.

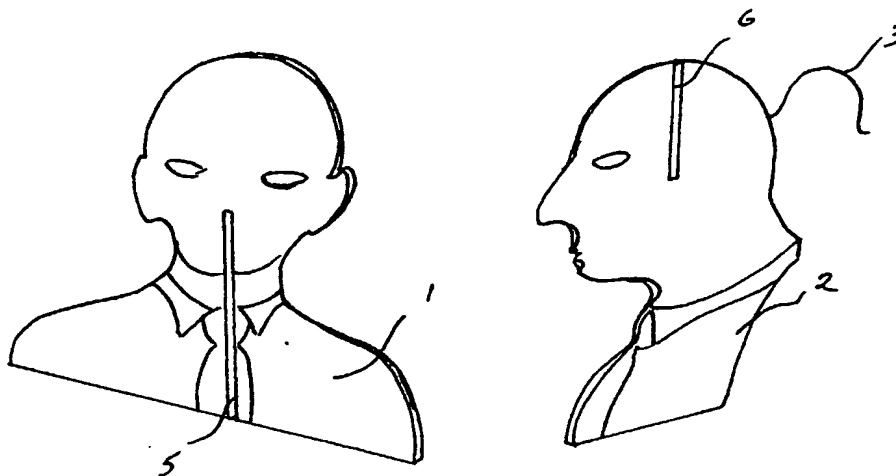


Fig 1

GB 2 373 622 A

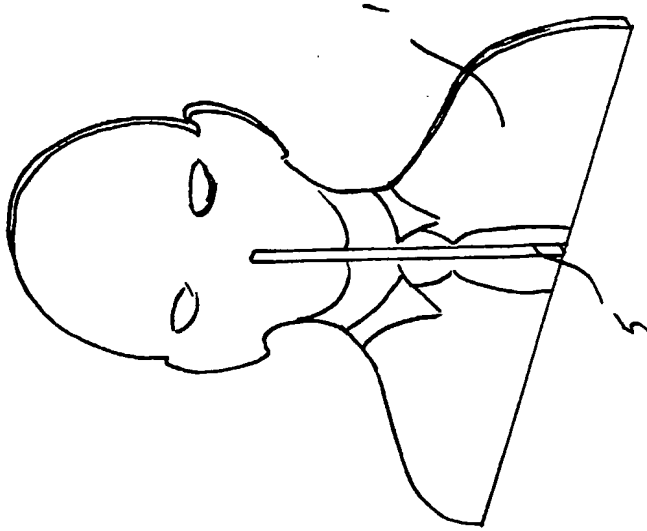
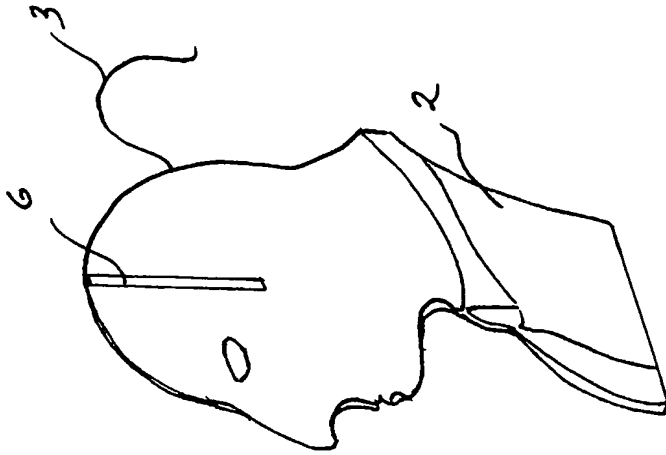


Fig 1

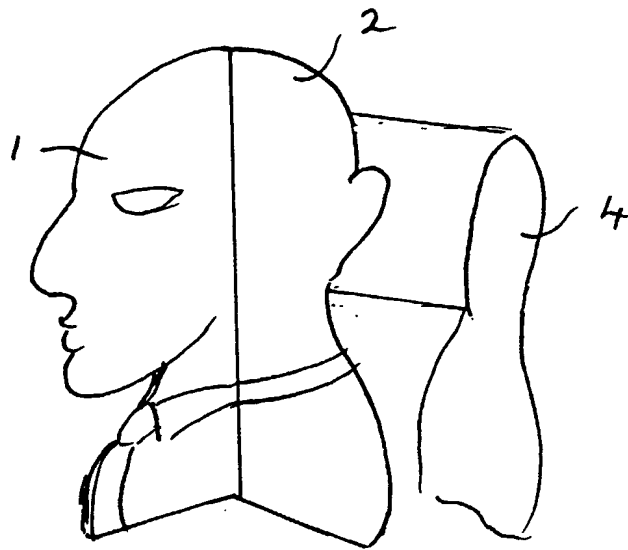


Fig 2

MAN ONBOARD SAFETY AID

The present invention relates to a simulator for giving the impression that a seat of a motor vehicle is occupied.

5

Attempts to intimidate single persons in motor vehicles are becoming more and more frequent, particularly at night in inner-city areas, and many people are becoming very apprehensive about driving alone in such places.

10 Also, so-called 'road rage' attacks are becoming more common. Another activity which is on the increase is theft from and of parked cars. People have tried to alleviate these problems by carrying dummies in their cars to give the impression that there is more than one occupant present. However, this practice is not entirely satisfactory. If the dummy is solid, then it is
15 cumbersome and takes up space within the car. If the dummy is inflatable, then there is the inconvenience of having to inflate it. In either case, the representation of the facial features of most dummies is not very realistic, and the rigidity of dummies rapidly gives away the fact that the "occupant" of a car seat is not a human being as human beings respond to the
20 movements of a car.

It is an object of the present invention to provide an improved simulator for giving the impression that a seat of a motor vehicle is occupied.

25 According to the present invention, there is provided a simulator for providing the impression that a seat of a motor vehicle is occupied, including at least two sheets of material, the outline of which is that of the head and upper torso of a human being and which bear pictorial representations of aspects of the head and upper torso of a human being,

means for assembling the sheets of material to provide a quasi three-dimensional representation of the head and upper torso of a human being, and means for attaching the simulator to a head rest of a motor vehicle seat in such a manner as to permit motion of the simulator relative to the vehicle seat in response to forces generated as a result of the motor vehicle.

The invention will now be described by way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:-

Figure 1 shows the components of an embodiment of the invention, and

Figure 2 is a representation of the embodiment of Figure 1 when assembled.

Referring to the drawings, a simulator for giving the impression that a seat of a motor vehicle is occupied consists of two sheets, 1 and 2, of a stiff board material such as hardboard or medium density fibre board of some 3 mm in thickness. The board 1 is shaped to represent, life size, a full-face view of the head and upper torso of a human being and the board 2 is shaped to represent the profile of the same head and upper torso. The board 2 has a hook 5 projecting from its rearward edge so that the simulator can be hung over the back of a car seat 4, as shown in Figure 2.

The boards 1 and 2 have slots 3 and 4, respectively, formed in them so that they can be assembled orthogonally to form a quasi three-dimensional figure. The boards 1 and 2 have upon them representations of the appropriate views of the head and upper torso such that when the simulator is assembled there is created the illusion of the head and upper torso of a human being. The illusion can be heightened by fitting the assembled

simulator with a pair of spectacles, which can serve the dual purpose of assisting in holding the boards 1 and 2 in position.

The single hook 5 allows the simulator to move in relation to the car seat 6 as the vehicle changes its speed and/or direction, further assisting the illusion that there is a real person present in the seat occupied by the simulator.

When the simulator is not required, it is dismantled readily for storage until it is again required.

CLAIMS

1. A simulator for providing the impression that a seat of a motor vehicle is occupied, including at least two sheets of material, the outline of which is the head and upper torso of a human being and which bear pictorial representations of aspects of the head and upper torso of a human being, means for assembling the sheets of material to provide a quasi three-dimensional representation of the head and upper torso of a human being, and means for attaching the simulator to a head rest of a motor vehicle in such a manner as to permit motion of the simulator relative to the vehicle seat in response to forces generated as a result of the movements of the motor vehicle.
2. A simulator according to Claim 1 wherein there are two sheets of material adapted to fit together orthogonally to provide the quasi three-dimensional representation of the torso of a human being.
3. A simulator according to Claim 1 or Claim 2 wherein the means for attaching the simulator to the head rest of a seat of a motor vehicle so as to permit motion of the simulator relative to the vehicle seat comprises a hook attached to one of the sheets of material.
4. A simulator for providing the impression that a seat of a motor vehicle is occupied substantially as hereinbefore described and with reference to the accompanying drawing.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Application No: GB 0107401.2
Claims searched: 1 to 4

Examiner: Matthew Jefferson
Date of search: 21 December 2001

Patents Act 1977 Search Report under Section 17

Databases searched:

UK Patent Office collections, including GB, EP, WO & US patent specifications, in:

UK Cl (Ed.S): G5C (CDA)

Int Cl (Ed.7): G09F 19/00, 19/08, 21/04.

Other: Online: EPODOC, PAJ, WPI.

Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Identity of document and relevant passage	Relevant to claims
A	GB 2218560 A (HINDMARCH ET AL.) See whole document.	1.
A	GB 2280774 A (GRAHAM) See abstract and figures.	1.
A	US 5935663 A (DUZAC) See abstract and figures.	1.
A	US 4820231 A (MIKITKA ET AL.) See abstract and figures.	1.

X	Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A	Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art
Y	Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P	Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
&	Member of the same patent family	E	Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.